

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 12 and 15-16 are currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, new claim 16 is supported by the Specification at, for example, page 11, lines 23-27 and page 14, lines 16-20. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner maintains the previous rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jenkins et al. (U.S. 5,637,143) ("Jenkins") in view of Schmid et al. (U.S. 5,364,467) ("Schmid") in further view of Mei et al. (U.S. 6,894,089) ("Mei"). Additionally, the Examiner maintains the previous rejection of claims 12 and 15 as being obvious over Jenkins in view of Schmid, Mei and Shimizu et al. (U.S. 4,842,837) ("Shimizu"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As previously discussed (see, for example, Response filed on August 25, 2010), Jenkins does not teach or suggest a coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or molybdenum hydrate that is covered with silica. Schmid fails to cure the deficiencies of Jenkins, as this reference does not in any way teach or suggest coating with a molybdenum oxide and/or hydrate. Mei fails to cure the deficiencies of Jenkins and Schmid. For this reason alone, this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the present invention achieves superior and unexpected

results, which rebuts any *prima facie* case of obviousness arguably established by the Examiner. The results of Experiments 1 to 6 in the enclosed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 show that when the Mo content is lower than that defined in claim 1 of the present application, the anchor effect is not exhibited and it is difficult to form a silica coat on the aluminum pigment. In such cases, the Si content is particularly low and gas generation cannot be suppressed, and therefore, such a sample cannot be used as an aluminum pigment for a water-based paint (see Experiments 2-3). When the Mo content is higher than that defined in claim 1 of the present application, the aluminum pigment agglomerates, resulting in lack of stability and considerable degradation of the color tone (see Experiment 6).

Moreover, the results of Experiments 7 to 10 show that when the content of Si derived from a silica coat is too low, generation of hydrogen gas in the water-based paint cannot be suppressed. When the Si content is too high, the silica layer is too thick, which results in degradation of the color tone of the pigment itself (see Experiment 10).

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

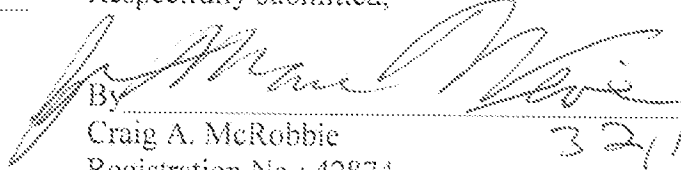
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Vanessa Perez-Ramos, Registration No. 61,158 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: DEC 9 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Enclosure: Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 by Yoshiki Hashizume